

**Manchester Public Schools
Board of Education
Policy Committee
January 7, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jason Scappaticci, Deborah Hagenow, Mary Jane Pazda
Others Present: Richard Kisiel, Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Proposed Policy Revision: 3541 Transportation Policy

Dr. Kisiel recommended the deletion of Section IV-Transportation for School Choice since the district no longer offers a school choice policy. The Committee agreed to forward this policy to the full Board.

2. Proposed Revised Policy: 4013 Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Dr. Kisiel explained that this policy replaces the current Harassment Policy. Sex discrimination is a form of sexual harassment and this concept is unclear in the present policy. Also, the current policy places too much emphasis on harassment issues that are not of a sexual nature and should not be confused with matters related to sexual discrimination or sexual harassment. Harassment issue of a non-sexual nature should be addressed more properly addressed through building administration and school disciplinary procedures. The district does not have policy related to sex discrimination for students.

The Committee agreed to forward this policy to the full Board.

3. Proposed Revised Policy: 5110 Student Attendance and Truancy

Dr. Kisiel explained that this policy revision includes revisions in the current attendance policy and includes language in the current Board policy on Truancy #5113.2. The policy is now consistent with State statute related to attendance. It defines "chronic absenteeism" that the State now requires to be reported on a quarterly basis. It identifies very clear intervention strategies to respond to all levels of absenteeism. It reinforces the district use of the Student Attendance Review Board as an intervention approach in dealing with chronic absenteeism and truancy.

The Committee requested that Dr. Kisiel provides additional clarity in Section D (1), and D (2) with regard to "voluntary withdrawal." Dr. Kisiel will submit this change to the Committee for a final review before the policy is forwarded to the Board.

The Committee agreed to forward this policy to the full Board pending the update in Section D.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next meeting date is January 21 at 5:30 p.m.